

# Eat

Dig into a Kansas City specialty.



**Finger-Lickin' Good**  
Forget trying to be neat; it tastes better if you use your hands.

## Classic 'Cue

Join the debate about who's the best.

### ARTHUR BRYANT'S BARBECUE

Kansas City native Calvin Trillin called this "the best restaurant in the world." No surprise to the fans who've enjoyed Bryant's ribs for decades. [arthurbryantsbbq.com](http://arthurbryantsbbq.com)

### GATES BAR-B-Q

Be prepared to hear a loud "Hi, may I help you?" the second you walk in the door. Don't feel rushed; take your time deciding between the pulled pork and the brisket. [gatesbbq.com](http://gatesbbq.com)

### FIGIELLA'S JACK STACK BARBECUE

Putting an upscale twist on a down-home favorite, Jack Stack adds soup, salad, and fish options to a traditional barbecue menu. Try the ribs, pictured left. [jackstackkc.com](http://jackstackkc.com)

### OKLAHOMA JOE'S

The original location wins the award for oddest locale: inside a gas station. The owners began on the barbecue championship circuit. [oklahomajoesbbq.com](http://oklahomajoesbbq.com)

WITH MORE THAN 100 barbecue joints in Kansas City, reaching a decision on which is the best could take a while. In the home of The American Royal barbecue championship, folks are used to thinking carefully about barbecue.

No matter which place you try first, stock up on napkins: Kansas City liberally applies its signature thick, sticky-sweet tomato-based sauce. Clean-hands fans need not dig in.

Then there's the meat. Chefs here welcome all comers: beef, chicken, turkey or pork. But it's got to be slow-cooked. Henry Perry's 1907 original recipe called for the meat to be cooked in a pit, but a smoker would do today.

A KC delicacy: burnt ends, the trimmed ends of a beef brisket that are returned to the smoker for further cooking, then served up smothered in sauce. Extra helping of napkins, please.

# Dining Out

For quick bites or big-night dinners, try these nine.

WHEN IN DOUBT, get the steak. That's good advice in a city with such a rich cattle heritage. But dig a little deeper. Adventurous, award-winning chefs use ingredients of all kinds—seafood, poultry, vegetables, and even the humble steak—to create memorable meals. French, Italian, and classic American influences combine with clever presentation to make Kansas City's culinary scene Grade A prime.

## 40 Sardines

Chef Debbie Gold mixes fresh flavors from around the world with those of her traditional French background. Indulge in the braised Colorado lamb shank or the sauteed red grouper, and save room for a slice of Gold's beloved lemon meringue pie. [40sardines.com](http://40sardines.com)

## The American Restaurant

The James Beard Foundation recently named executive chef Celina Tio the best chef in the Midwest. Stop by this Crown Center location to

taste the slow-roasted Arctic char, paired with one of 1,500 wines available, and enjoy a sweet ending of caramel macchiato euphoria. [theamericankc.com](http://theamericankc.com)

## The Capital Grille

Beef is the star here; try the Kona-crusted sirloin with caramelized shallot butter or the filet mignon with lump crabmeat and asparagus spears. On Sundays, relax in the lounge with jazz and a selection from the award-winning wine list. [thecapitalgrille.com](http://thecapitalgrille.com)



**Sweet Tooth**  
At the American Restaurant, dessert is divine.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RON BERG

## Classic Cup Cafe

This European-style bistro boasts outdoor seating, contemporary cuisine, and an expansive wine list. Come early for breakfast and have the buttermilk pancakes; or try the spicy Thai chicken pizza or crabmeat-stuffed salmon for lunch or dinner. [classiccup.com](http://classiccup.com)

## Grand Street Cafe

This stylish restaurant offers an impressive view of Country Club Plaza, but the meals get all the attention. Indulge in eggs Benedict or frittatas from the brunch menu; at dinner, try a Kansas City strip or caramelized sea scallops. [grandstreetcafe.com](http://grandstreetcafe.com)

## JP Wine Bar

This hip find in the Crossroads Arts District offers guests an alternative dining experience in which beverages take center stage. Choose from an assortment of wines, cocktails, and coffee, paired with cheese flights, small plates, or indulgent desserts. [jpwinebar.com](http://jpwinebar.com)

## Le Fou Frog

The relaxed atmosphere of this French bistro pairs nicely with its menu of traditional cuisine. The annual Bastille Day celebration in July is a highlight, with entertainment and special menus; until then, live it up with a starter of foie gras fraise saute, followed by steak au poivre. [lefoufrog.com](http://lefoufrog.com)

## Michael Smith

Contemporary light fixtures and colorful artwork set the mood at this cool Arts District spot. But it's more than a pretty face: Restaurateur Smith has multiple James Beard awards under his belt. Start with venison ravioli or sauteed diver sea scallops; move on to roasted duck or pan-roasted blue nose bass. [michaelsmithkc.com](http://michaelsmithkc.com)

## Osteria Il Centro

This romantic Italian restaurant takes its inspiration from the Mediterranean coast. Choose from the wine list that earned the restaurant an award of excellence from *Wine Spectator* magazine, and enjoy favorites like chicken-walnut pasta or the classic pizza margherita. [osteria-ilcentro.com](http://osteria-ilcentro.com)



## Come Back to the Aladdin!

There's Magic in the Air...History with a Twist...Hospitality with a Flair!

Visit Downtown Kansas City's newest historic hotel restoration. Listed on the National Historic Register and originally opened in 1926, The Aladdin Holiday Inn Downtown is bringing back the original art deco ambiance with a vintage hip approach for a fresh look at yesterday.

193 Vintage Hip Guest Rooms – The Zebra Room full service restaurant – The Martini Loft on the mezzanine – The Roof Garden Ballroom and Terrace to accommodate groups up to 225 people – Located in the heart of downtown KC across the street from the KC Convention Center...next to the new Power and Light District.

the Aladdin  
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